

Pappas Telecasting
Companies'
'donation' of
\$325,000 in airtime
to Republican
candidates in
certain areas is yet
another example of a
powerful media group
abusing its
privileged access to
the public airwaves.

Personally, I feel
that broadcasters
should give a
substantial amount
of free airtime to
candidates of all
stripes equally.
But to do so in an
unfair fashion is a
very serious abuse
of their licenses
which require them
to serve the public
interest.

Localism is not
served when a
corporate
headquarters decides
to provide one side
in local elections a
louder voice than
others. During
election season,
local audiences
should be offered
genuine debate --
not disingenuous
offers to "purchase"
an equal amount of
response time.

Pappas uses the
public airwaves free
of charge and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. Pappas'
actions are legally
questionable and
cast doubt on
whether Pappas truly
intends to serve the

public interest.
Their actions show
why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them.
Further, they show
why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than just a
returned postcard.
Thank you.